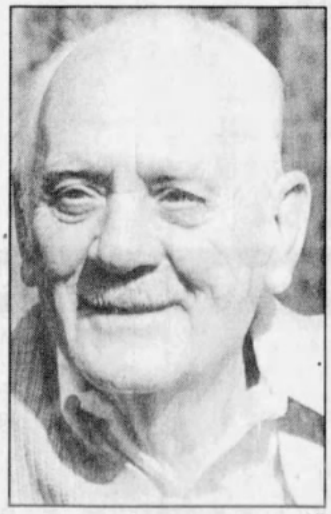
1995-03-20
Richmond Times Dispatch (p.9)

OBITUARY

"I discount very highly the appellation of guru. They're supposed to wear turbans and do mystical things. I surely shudder at that. I try to demystify things."

— Robert A. Monroe



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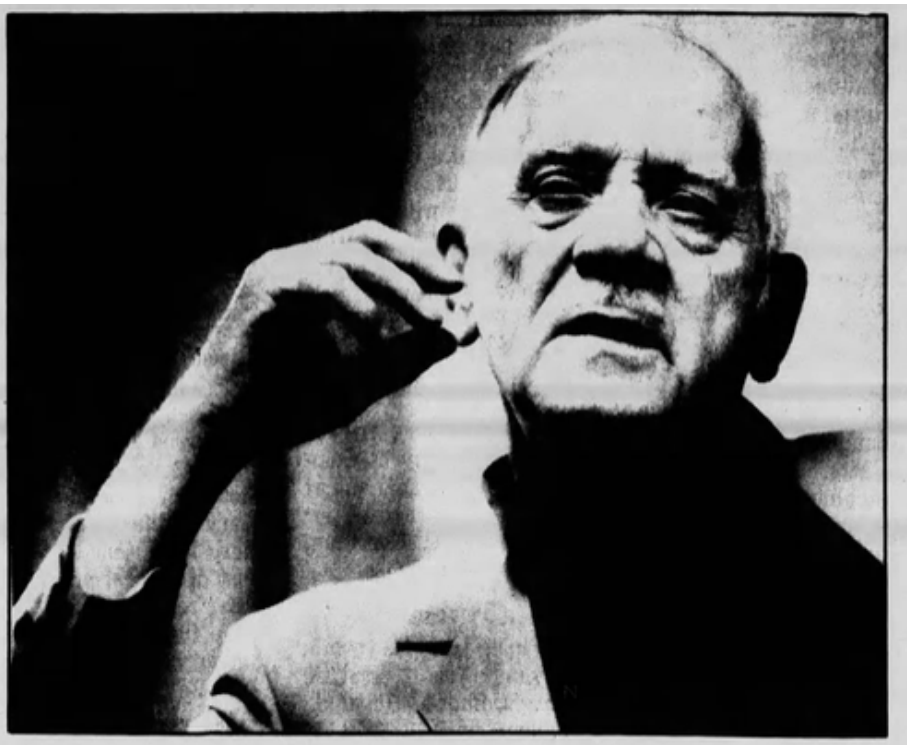

File photo

Robert Monroe helped pioneer work with sound waves

Institute founder dies at 79

Robert A. Monroe studied altered states

BY JOHN LYLE
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Robert Allan Monroe, founder and director of The Monroe Institute, a research institute in Nelson County dedicated to studying "out-of-body experiences" and other altered states, died Friday from complications of pneumonia in a Charlottesville hospital.

The former broadcasting executive was 79 and lived in Faber.

Mr. Monroe had his first out-of-body experience in 1958, while living in Westchester County, N.Y. He hadn't been sleeping well and to soothe himself, he thought of flying his glider.

Mr. Monroe

"I felt myself myself bumping up against the ceiling. Then I looked down and I saw myself in bed," he said in a 1988 interview. "I thought I was dying."

Mr. Monroe managed to climb back into his reclining form.

He continued having the experiences. He found he could travel through walls, to other countries, to other planets, through time, even to other realities where he communicated with intelligent beings, some of which appeared as interlocking circles of energy. He enjoyed the trips, he said.

Mr. Monroe was not bothered by the prospect of death. Never a religious man, he said he learned in his journeys that God as we know him doesn't exist.

"A force may have created us, but it doesn't care about us," he said.

When your body dies, he said, you can direct where your other self goes. You can go back to Earth or even to another planet or dimension, he said.

"What a wonderful relief it is," Monroe said. "You are your own God."

He held three patents for the techniques he developed for inducing and controlling various states of awareness, and he was the author of several books including, "Journeys Out of the Body" and "Far Journeys."

In the 1940s and '50s, Mr. Monroe produced, wrote and directed more than 400 radio programs. He eventually became vice president for broadcasting of the Mutual Broadcasting System.

His wife, Nancy Penn Monroe, died in 1992.

Survivors include five daughters, Laurie Monroe Chasick of Tampa, Fla., Maria Monroe Epes of Richmond, Virginia Penn Holmes of Black Mountain, N.C., Nancy Honeycutt McMoneagle of Faber, and Lucinda Beale Honeycutt of West Jefferson, N.C.; a son, A.J. Honeycutt III of Faber; and a brother, Emmett Monroe of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at The Monroe Institute in Faber.

The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to the Nelson County Humane Society, P.O. Box 84, Arrington, Va. 22922.

1995-03-21
The News Virginian (p.2)

Robert A. Monroe

FABER — Robert Allan Monroe, 79, a former broadcasting executive and internationally known for his research in human consciousness and founder/director of The Monroe Institute, died Friday (March 17, 1995) from complications due to pneumonia.

In 1956, he created a small research and development program in his New York based company, RAM Enterprises. The research was originally designed to determine the feasibility of learning during sleep and in the ensuing years grew into the study of many facets of human consciousness.

He wrote three books "Journey Out of the Body," "Far Journey" and "Ultimate Journey".

He owned two radio stations in Richmond, established cable television in Charlottesville and Waynesboro in 1967, and gave the Monroe Institute Scholarship Fund for a qualifying graduating Nelson County High School senior. He was listed in Who's Who of America.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Penn Monroe.

He is survived by his brother, Dr. Emmett Monroe of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; and his children, Laurie Monroe Chasick of Tampa, Fla., Maria Monroe Epes of Richmond, Virginia Penn Holmes of Black Mountain, N.C., Nancy Honeycutt McMoneagle and A.J. Honeycutt III, both of Faber, and Lucinda Beale Honeycutt of West Jefferson, N.C.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at The Monroe Institute.

Memorial donations may be made to the Nelson County Humane Society, P.O. Box 85, Arrington, Va.